

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Let us take ourselves in the presence of God.

Good and gracious God, You call us to make our way through this life with You and challenge us to walk arm-in-arm with each other. As we confront the human condition, You bless us with intellect and free will to establish institutions to guide our human affairs, to confirm the possibility of freedom, personal development, and prosperity for the common good.

We ask You to bless and strengthen all who strive to improve the human condition and foster a caring respect for each person. In Your goodness, bless the Members of our Nation's House of Representatives. May all their deliberations and discussions be inspired by the wisdom and vision of Your kindness. And may the work conducted here today bear rich fruit that nurtures all of the citizens of this Nation and our dreams for a better world.

All of this we ask in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING CARDINAL DONALD WUERL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., and to thank him for offering the opening prayer as we begin our work today.

Like many of his parishioners, I know Cardinal Wuerl to be a man of generous spirit and immense gifts, a true leader of the faithful. When he was elevated to the College of Cardinals last fall by Pope Benedict, it was a proud and humbling moment for all of us. His elevation came nearly a quarter of a century after being ordained a bishop by His Holiness John Paul II. Cardinal Wuerl went on to serve as Bishop of Pittsburgh, where he was born and raised, until his appointment here in Washington, D.C.

Around the world, Cardinal Wuerl is respected and admired for his efforts on behalf of Catholic education. He currently serves as chancellor of the Catholic University of America and is a champion of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which helps disadvantaged students gain access to quality education.

Again, on behalf of my colleagues, it is an honor to welcome Cardinal Wuerl to the People's House.

WELCOMING CARDINAL DONALD WUERL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents the area of Pittsburgh that is also part of the Pittsburgh diocese, I would also like to welcome Cardinal Wuerl to the House of Representatives. He is a great leader in the faith community and a friend, and certainly a friend to everybody in the Nation now as well as those in the Pittsburgh region.

He began his career as an assistant pastor at Saint Rosalia Parish in Pittsburgh. There he became secretary to Pittsburgh Bishop John Wright. Then at Saint Paul's Seminary in Pittsburgh, he worked as a rector. In 1988, Bishop Wuerl was installed as the 11th Bishop of Pittsburgh, where he led 18 years. He led 800,000 Roman Catholics in 214 parishes throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

I should say we also knew him from his television series called "The Teaching of Christ," which was distributed throughout the Christian Associates cable channel, and his best-selling catechism of the same name, which is now I believe in its 30th year of publication, translated into over 10 languages.

I echo the comments made by our Speaker in terms of the Cardinal's leadership and the esteem we all hold him in. We are most grateful that he came here today and led us in prayer.

COMMUNICATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Attached is a facsimile of a letter of resignation submitted by Rep. Christopher J. Lee to the pertinent Executive authority in the State of New York. It was received in the Capitol last evening. The facsimile previously laid before the House was addressed to the Governor rather than to the Secretary of State. This document will round out the papers of the House on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN V. SULLIVAN.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2011.

Hon. RUTH NOEMI COLON,
Acting Secretary of State, State of New York,
Albany, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE COLON: I hereby submit my resignation as United States Representative of the 26th District of New York, effective 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Attached is the letter I submitted to Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NEED TO WORK ON CREATING JOBS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to roll up its sleeves and begin to work together. Democrats and Republicans must come together to create new jobs for the American people, strengthen our recovery, and reduce the debt.

Yet instead of finding some common ground solution, Republicans have put forward an agenda that only serves to divide the American people. Yes, we must lower the deficit and national debt, but it is wrong to balance the budget on the backs of honorable Americans with dangerous cuts that may lead to double-digit unemployment.

In my district in California in the Inland Empire, our unemployment rate is nearly 14 percent. My constituents can't afford to have Congress play politics with the budget and the national debt. They need jobs. They need to make sure that they are putting food on the table and paying their mortgage, not another government shutdown.